



## August 12, 2020 – 6:00-7:30pm Parks Commission & Arts Commission Joint Meeting

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Conference ID: 761 037 868#

### ARTS COMMISSION

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Position 3: Pinky Estell  
Position 4: Trisha Gilmore, Vice Chair  
Position 5: Cynthia Chesak  
Position 6: Helen Enguerra  
Position 7: Shawn Belyea  
Student Rep: Dylan Mahler, Student Rep

### PARKS COMMISSION

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Position 2: VACANT  
Position 3: Matthew Mega  
Position 4: Earnest Young  
Position 5: Don Scanlon  
Position 6: Scott Kruize, Chair  
Position 7: Ivan Cockrum, Vice Chair  
Student Rep: VACANT

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Special Presentation:

*Riverton Creek Restoration Project Art – Sarah Kavage, Artist in Residence*

4. P&R Department Updates
5. Adjournment

#### Upcoming Meetings

##### **Arts Commission – August 26, 2020**

*For more information contact Tracy Gallaway at (206) 767-2305*

##### **Parks Commission – September 9, 2020**

*For more information contact Kris Kelly at (206) 433-7157*

**PROPOSAL FOR INTEGRATED, ECOLOGICAL PUBLIC ARTWORK  
RIVERTON CREEK RESTORATION  
TUKWILA, WA**

Sarah Kavage, Artist in Residence for the Duwamish River  
March 2020

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This proposal integrates public, ecological art into the Riverton Creek restoration. The various components are designed to

- Highlight natural processes happening at the site
- Perform ecological functions
- Honor the water and the restoration of the watershed
- Inform trail users about the site, its history and ecology

These components work together to create an elegant, multi-sensory interpretation of the site. Most of the project components are made of natural and living materials. Those materials will change and grow and decay over time.

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

**1. Singing bridge**

Proposal: Thread a series of bicycle bells onto the steel rod or cables running the length of the bridge. The bells can be rung by people crossing the bridge.

Historically, bells have been used across the world to communicate over a distance, and as symbols of peace, freedom, wisdom, clarity, and harmony. They can signal joyous occasions or passages, commemorate events, focus the mind, and call communities together. Bicycle bells in particular serve a safety or cautionary function, a musical way of alerting others to one's presence on a crowded street. All of these uses and meanings – both celebratory and cautionary - are relevant when positioned over the restored junction of creek and river.

Using off-the-shelf bicycle bell parts will be much less costly than a custom manufactured design.

The bell in the image, a simple disc design from a Danish company will either be threaded onto one of the bridge's side rails or onto a short rail fabricated for the purpose. Multiple discs next placed to each other can be knocked together by passers by to produce chimes.



## 2. A REFUGE

Proposal: Large woody debris (LWD), AKA beach logs - are used in wetland restoration to create shade and hiding places for juvenile salmon and other fish. This proposal would use carvings and natural colorant applied to a single piece of LWD at the mouth of the creek, to highlight the changes in the tide.

The colorant process, known as ebonizing, is a natural chemical reaction that happens when wood is soaked with a solution of vinegar and steel (steel wool, old nails, etc). The solution reacts with the tannins in the wood to turn the wood a deep black.<sup>1</sup> For low-tannin (soft) woods, a "tea" of Quebracho bark powder (from a South American tree, commonly used in traditional leather tanning) is applied first to boost the tannin content.

The black color will stand out against the other components of the landscape, complementing them without being overpowering. Once the tree is ebonized, it can be carved and then set in place. The carved cuts will need to be deeper than the ebonized part to highlight the natural color of the wood.

Because it is a chemical reaction, once applied and dry, the ebonizing is long lasting and not water soluble.



test of ebonized wood with carved sections

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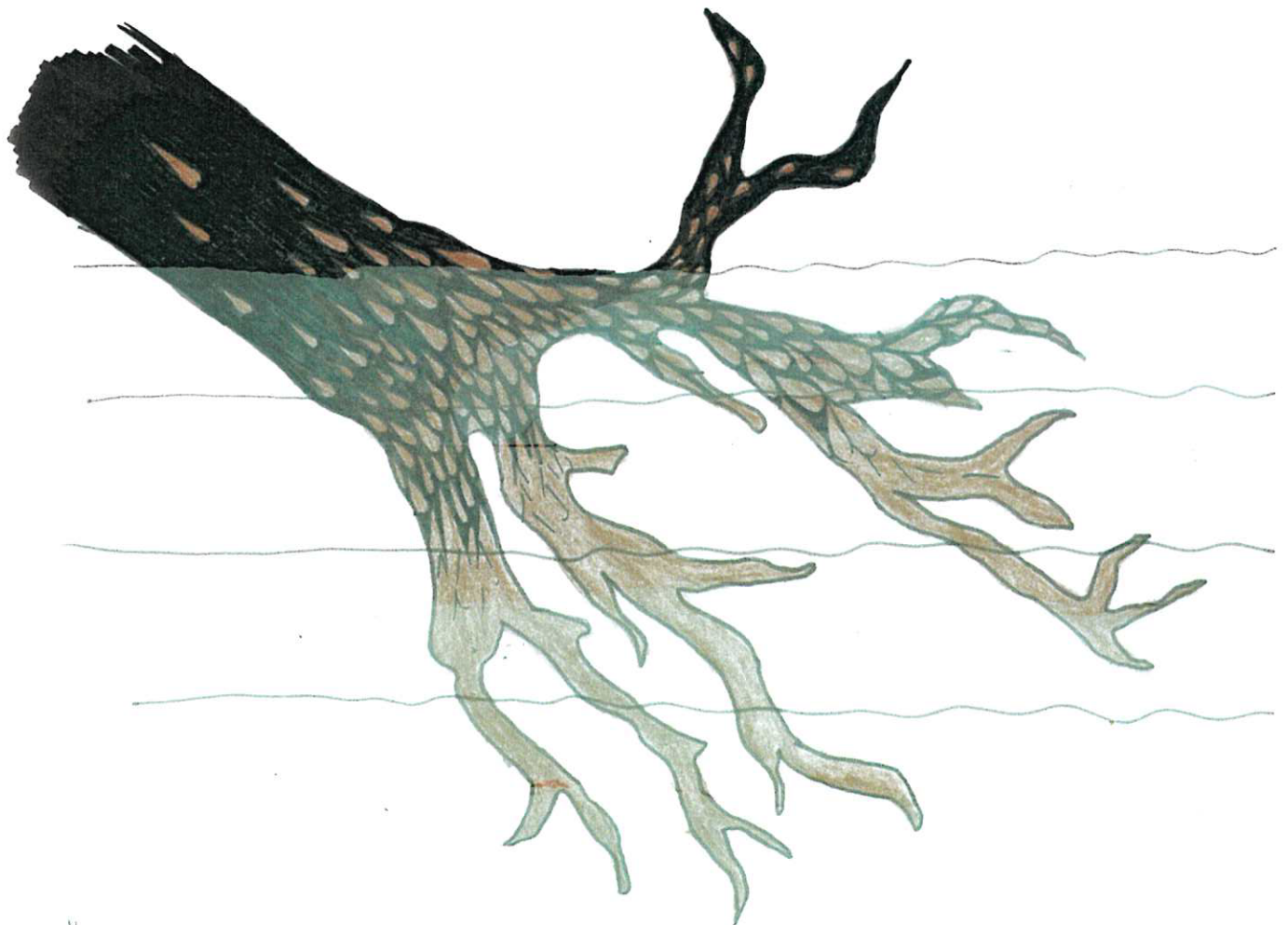
<sup>1</sup> [https://www.popularwoodworking.com/techniques/ebonizing\\_wood/](https://www.popularwoodworking.com/techniques/ebonizing_wood/)

PROPOSED ECOLOGICAL PUBLIC ART  
AS PART OF RIVERTON CREEK RESTORATION:  
LARGE WOODY DEBRIS CARVING  
MARKING THE TIDE

SARAH KAVAGE

DUWAMISH RIVER A.I.R.

JULY 2019



*"a refuge"*

### **3. Interpretive murals**

Proposal: Create murals along the concrete retaining walls that interpret the site and create visual cohesion between the natural and built elements of the restoration. Images and language can intertwine to create a lively presentation of historical and ecological information. Using a single color - black - on the concrete, the murals will complement the natural setting rather than compete with it, and call attention to the ebonized wood element in the water.

I will be working with community members to generate the words and imagery that will be incorporated into the mural. The text will be multi-lingual, highlighting the fact that all cultures care about the environment. Rivers are a part of the landscape all over the world, and that is reflected in many cultures' songs, poetry, stories, etc. In a place as diverse as Tukwila, creating space for inclusive cultural expression is essential.

#### 4. Living willow viewpoints

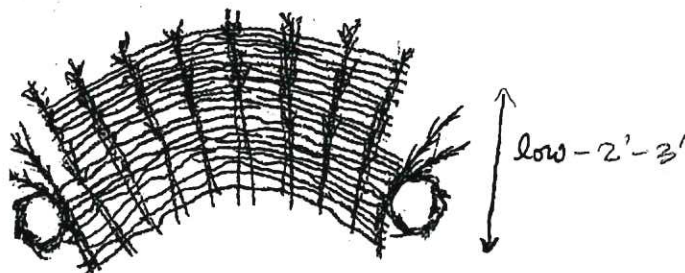
Proposal: As part of the project, "spot" restoration is planned along the riverbank between the TIB and Marginal Way bridges. Invasive plants will be removed and natives will be planted. Living willow sculptures can be planted as part of the restoration to frame viewpoints of the river.

Because of its flexibility, connection to riparian habitats and ecosystem function, and fast growth, willow is a longtime favorite for "living sculpture." It is commonly used in stream restoration and serves multiple ecological functions. In addition to uptaking pollution, willow can be used to create berms, retain banks, slow runoff, and for flood control.

Live willow stakes can be purchased or grown from cuttings. Two-year old willow boughs are generally used for posts or larger diameter support structures, while one-year old willow is smaller, more flexible and used for more ornamental, "fill-in" forms. It may also be necessary, depending on the design, to use sturdier materials (wood or metal) as armatures.

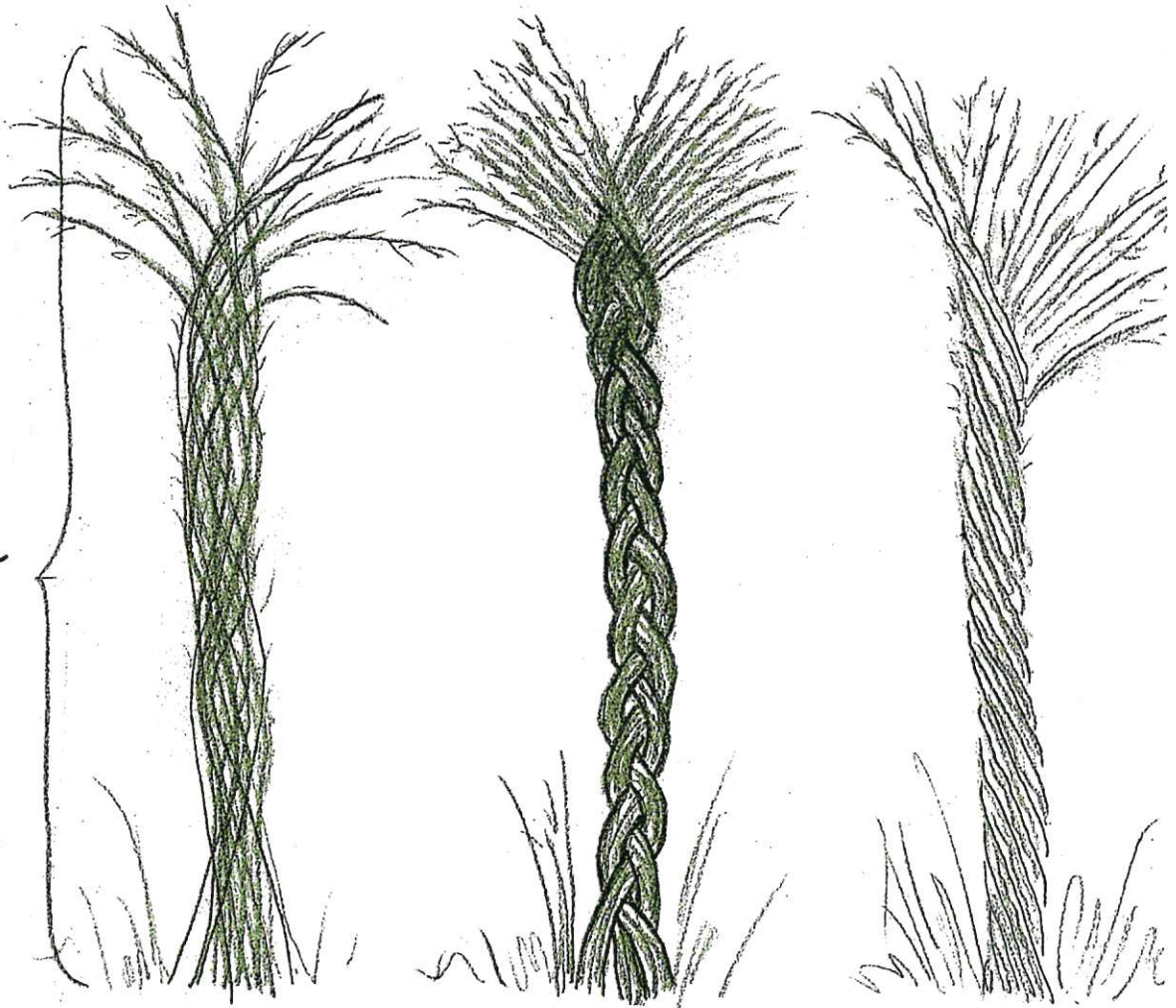
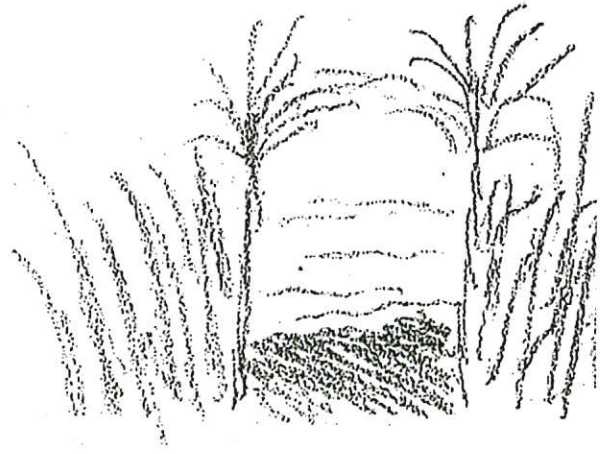
#### PROPOSED ECOLOGICAL PUBLIC ART AS PART OF RIVERTON CREEK RESTORATION: LIVING WILLOW RIVER ACCESS POINTS ALONG DUWAMISH RIVER

SARAH KAVAGE  
DUWAMISH RIVER A.I.R.  
JULY 2019



PROPOSED ECOLOGICAL PUBLIC ART  
AS PART OF RIVERTON CREEK RESTORATION:  
LIVING WILLOW COLUMNS  
ALONG DUWAMISH RIVER

SARAH KAVAGE  
DUWAMISH RIVER A.I.R.  
JULY 2019



5 1/2'  
tall  
approximate

10-15  
stakes

15-20  
stakes

10-15 stakes